

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. GOVERNMENT JOINS GOB AND NGO PARTNERS TO ADVOCATE ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA, NOVEMBER 27 -- The U.S. Government, through its development agency USAID and implementing partner, Plan International, organized an event in the city today in collaboration with the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) to observe the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women. The event, attended by the Secretary of Women and Children's Affairs Ministry Tariqul Islam and Alexious Butler, director of USAID's Office of Democracy & Governance, supported creation of an environment in which people are motivated to raise their voice against violence against women, especially domestic violence. As part of the advocacy and public awareness components of USAID's Protecting Human Rights program, the event included a debate on the role of family to prevent violence against women, a stage performance highlighting the realities of domestic violence, and a discussion session on the domestic violence situation in Bangladesh and progress in formulating rules to implement the domestic violence law.

This year's theme was "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!" "Militarism" in the family environment means creating a culture of fear and supporting the use of violence, especially against female members. In many families a culture of "militarism" is an indisputable reality that human rights activists, governments and NGOs dream and endeavor to eliminate.

Through this event, USAID confirmed the U.S. Government's support for efforts to eliminate violence against women by implementing the Protecting Human Rights or PHR program. As part of the five-year \$12.7 million program, USAID Bangladesh is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh, NGOs, and other civil society organizations to make an

effective impact on advocacy, capacity building, access to justice, survivor services, and mass awareness and educational campaigns that seek to end violence against women.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is commemorated through a 16-day campaign starting on November 25 and culminating on International Human Rights Day on December 10.

The U.S. Government through USAID has provided over \$5.8 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, USAID marked its 50th year anniversary as an agency in November 2011.

=====

GR/ 2011

Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8855500, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)